UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,194	05/18/2005	Hironori Tomita	2005_0829A	5647

513 7590 01/27/2009

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
2033 K STREET N. W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER	
WRIGHT, BRYAN F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2431	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/27/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/535,194	TOMITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BRYAN WRIGHT	2431	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 October 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-40* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-40* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

FINAL ACTION

1. This action is in response to Amendment filed October 20, 2008.

2. Claims 21-40 are amended. Claims 21-40 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 21-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0174439 and Akiyama hereinafter) in view of Kocher et al (US Patent No. 6,289,455 and Kocher hereinafter).

4. As to claim 21, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by a manufacturer said content distribution system comprising an information distribution device [fig. 14], a manufacturer terminal and a content receiving device which are connectable with one another via a communications line [fig. 1], wherein:

said information distribution device includes an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing the content which becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product (i.e., … teaches an encryption unit for encrypting a data [par. 90], other than the content (e.g., movie, [fig. 18]), associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

said content receiving device includes a product purchase information input means for accepting an input of product purchase and information (e.g., settlement information [par. 237]) and a product purchase information sending means for sending the inputted product purchase information to the manufacturer terminal [par. 226];

said manufacturer terminal includes a product purchase information receiving means for receiving the sent product purchase and information and a decryption key delivery means which includes a first memory for storing a decryption key [par. 235], and which, upon receiving the sent product purchase information, reads the decryption key from said first memory and delivers the decryption key to said content receiving

device said content receiving device further includes a decryption key receiving means for receiving the decryption key delivered by said manufacturer terminal [par. 235];

terminal, a decryption key storage means having a second memory [par. 237]:

said second memory being adapted for storing the received decryption key an input means for accepting an operation which enables use of the decryption key stored in said second memory [par. 237];

memory, and a decryption key sending means which, upon receiving the operation from said input means, reads the decryption key from said second memory and sends the decryption key to said information distribution device [par. 235];

said information distribution device further includes a decryption means which receives the decryption key sent from said decryption key sending means and uses the received decryption key to decrypt the content distributed by said encryption distribution means [par. 257];

and said content receiving means further includes a content receiving means for receiving the content sent by said encryption distribution and means [par. 90], and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content received by said content receiving means [30, fig. 7; par. 97].

Akiyama does not teach the claim limitation elements of reading a decryption key from subsequent memory storage means.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Akiyama as introduced by Kocher. Kocher discloses: reading a decryption key from subsequent memory storage means (to provide memory structures for key storage [col. 24, lines 10-25])

Therefore, given the teachings of Kocher, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Akiyama by employing the well known features of storing cryptography key in memory storage disclosed above by Kocher, thereby enhancing the distribution of content [col. 24, lines 10-25].

5. As to claim 22, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by a manufacturer [fig. 15], said content distribution system comprising an information distribution device [fig. 14], a manufacturer terminal and a content receiving device which are connectable with one another via a communications line [fig. 1], wherein:

said information distribution device includes an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing the content [par. 90], which becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product [par. 47], other than the content (e.g., movie, [fig. 18]), associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (e.g., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

said content receiving device includes a product purchase information input means for accepting an input of product purchase information (e.g., settlement information [par. 237]);

information, and a product purchase information sending means for sending the received inputted product purchase information to said manufacturer terminal [par. 237];

said manufacturer terminal includes a product purchase information receiving means for receiving the sent product purchase information (e.g., settlement information [par. 237]);

information, and a decryption key delivery means which includes a first memory for storing a decryption key [par. 235], and which, upon receiving the sent product purchase information [par. 257], reads the decryption key from said first memory and delivers the decryption key to said content receiving device [par. 257];

and said content receiving comprising device further comprises a receiving device for receiving the content sent from said encryption distribution [par. 90];

means a decryption key receiving means for receiving the decryption key delivered by said manufacturer terminal [par. 257];

terminal, a decryption key storage means including a second memory, said second memory being adapted for storing the received decryption key, an input means for accepting an operation which enables use of the decryption key stored in said second memory [par. 257];

memory, a decryption means which, upon accepting the operation from said input means, reads the decryption key from said second memory and uses the decryption key to decrypt the content received by content said receiving [par. 235];

device and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content decrypted by said decryption means [30, fig. 7; par. 97].

Akiyama does not teach the claim limitation elements of decryption key stored and read from subsequent memory storage means.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Akiyama as introduced by Kocher. Kocher discloses: reading a decryption key from subsequent memory storage means (to provide memory structures for key storage [col. 24, lines 10-25])

Therefore, given the teachings of Kocher, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Akiyama by employing the well known features of storing cryptography key in memory storage disclosed above by Kocher, thereby enhancing the distribution of content [col. 24, lines 10-25].

6. As to claim 23, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by a manufacturer [fig. 15], said content distribution system comprising

an information distribution device and a content receiving device which are connectable with each other via a communications line [fig. 1], and a consumer terminal and a manufacturer terminal which are connectable with each other via a communications line [fig. 1], wherein:

said information distribution device includes an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing the content [par. 90], which becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product [par. 51], other than the content [fig. 18], associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

said consumer terminal includes a product purchase information input means for accepting an input of product purchase information [par. 237];

information, and a product purchase information sending means for sending the received inputted product purchase information to said manufacturer terminal [par. 237];

said manufacturer terminal includes a product purchase information receiving means for receiving the sent product purchase information [par. 257];

information, and a decryption key delivery means which includes a first memory for storing a decryption key and which (i.e., … teaches distributing the key for enabling the usage of the content [par. 257]), upon receiving the sent product purchase information [par. 257], reads the decryption key from said first memory and delivers the decryption key to said consumer terminal [par. 257];

said consumer terminal further includes a decryption key receiving means for receiving the decryption key delivered by said manufacturer terminal [fig. 14];

said content receiving device includes an input means for accepting an input of the decryption key received by said consumer terminal [fig. 14];

terminal, a decryption key sending means which, upon accepting the input from said input means, sends the decryption key to said information distribution device [par. 235];

said information distribution device further includes a decryption means which receives the decryption key sent by said decryption key sending means and uses the received decryption key to decrypt the content distributed by said encryption distribution means [par. 257];

and said content receiving device further includes a receiving means for receiving the content sent by said encryption distribution [par. 90];

means and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content received by said receiving means [30, fig. 7; par. 97].

Akiyama does not teach the claim limitation elements of decryption key stored and read from subsequent memory storage means.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Akiyama as introduced by Kocher. Kocher

discloses: reading a decryption key from subsequent memory storage means (to provide memory structures for key storage [col. 24, lines 10-25])

Therefore, given the teachings of Kocher, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Akiyama by employing the well known features of storing cryptography key in memory storage disclosed above by Kocher, thereby enhancing the distribution of content [col. 24, lines 10-25].

7. As to claim 24, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by a manufacturer [fig. 14], said content distribution system comprising an information distribution device and a content receiving device which are connectable with each other via a communications line [fig. 1], and a consumer terminal and a manufacturer terminal which are connectable with each other via a communications line [fig. 1], wherein said information distribution device includes an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing the content [par. 90], which becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product [par. 47, other than the content [e.g., movie, (fig. 18)], associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

said consumer terminal includes a product purchase information input means (e.g., virtual showroom) for accepting an input of product purchase information [1, fig.

17], and a product purchase information sending means for sending the inputted product purchase information (e.g., settlement information) to said manufacturer terminal (par. 257);

said manufacturer terminal includes a product purchase information (e.g., settlement information) receiving means for receiving the sent product purchase information [par. 257];

information and a decryption key delivery means (e.g., distributing) which includes a first memory for storing a decryption key and which [par. 235], upon receiving the sent product purchase information [par. 257], reads the decryption key from said first memory and delivers the decryption key to said consumer terminal [par. 235];

said consumer terminal further includes a decryption key receiving means for receiving the decryption key delivered by said manufacturer terminal [fig. 14];

and said content receiving device includes a receiving means for receiving the content sent by said encryption distribution means an input means for accepting an input of the decryption key received by said consumer terminal [par. 90], a decryption means which, upon accepting the input from said input means, uses the decryption key to decrypt the content received by content said receiving means [par. 257], and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content decrypted by said decryption means [30, fig. 7].

Akiyama does not teach the claim limitation elements of decryption key stored and read from subsequent memory storage means.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Akiyama as introduced by Kocher. Kocher discloses: reading a decryption key from subsequent memory storage means (to provide memory structures for key storage [col. 24, lines 10-25])

Therefore, given the teachings of Kocher, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Akiyama by employing the well known features of storing cryptography key in memory storage disclosed above by Kocher, thereby enhancing the distribution of content [col. 24, lines 10-25].

8. As to claim 25, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by at least one manufacturer [fig. 14], said content distribution system comprising:

an information distribution device including an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing via an interactive medium content created by a content holder using a budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by the at least one manufacturer or and a decryption means which receives a decryption key given teas the result of a purchase of a product [par. 257], other than the content [e.g., movie, fig. 18], associated with the at least one manufacturer and decrypts the content distributed by said encryption distribution means [par. 235], wherein the content becomes audible or visible

to a user on a condition that the user has purchased the product, other than the content [par. 47], associated with the at least one manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

and a content receiving device including an input means for inputting the decryption key given teas the result of the purchase of the product made by the at least one manufacturer [par. 257], a sending means which [par. 235], after aid decryption key is inputted by said input means, sends the inputted decryption key to said information distribution device [par. 235], a receiving means for receiving the content sent by said information distribution device [par. 90] and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content received by said receiving means [30, fig. 7].

9. As to claim 26, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system for distributing a content provided by at least one manufacturer [fig. 14], said content distribution system comprising: an information distribution device including an encryption distribution means for encrypting and distributing content created by a content holder using a budget (e.g., fee, [par. 47] provided by plurality of manufacturers the at least one manufacturer [par. 90], wherein the content becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product [par. 47], other than the content (e.g., movie [fig. 18]), associated with the at least one manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

and a content receiving device including a receiving means for receiving the content sent from said information distribution device [par. 90], an input means for inputting a decryption key given to as the result of a purchase of a product made by the at least one manufacturer [par. 257], a decryption means which, upon input of the decryption key from said input means [par. 235], decrypts the content received by said receiving means [par. 235], and an audiovisual means for reproducing the content decrypted by said decryption means [30, fig. 7].

10. As to claim 27, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given in accordance with a price of products purchased (e.g., settle information) from the manufacturers at least one manufacturer or quantity of the purchased products [par. 257].

11. As to claim 28, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given in accordance with points which are allotted (e.g., settlement information) in accordance with the price of a product purchased from the at least one manufacturer or a quantity of the purchased products [par. 257].

12. As to claim 29, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is set according to each content or to a viewable time of the content [par. 235].

13. As to claim 30, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key given according to a specific product purchased from the at least one manufacturer is allowed to be used only for decrypting a specific content [par. 235].

14. As to claim 31, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key given to as the result of the product purchase is allowed to be used when a selling quantity of products made by the at least one manufacturer exceeds a certain value [par. 257].

Akiyama does not teach the claim limitation element of manufacturer exceeds a certain value. However the capability of providing the limitation is suggested by Akiyama teachings of content usage based on previous history [par. 234] and key distribution for content usage based on settlement information [par. 257]. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize using usage history data to determine if a content usage request is allowable. To make such a determination content usage data must be maintained and examined [par. 234]. Also, the settlement information Akiyama teaches [par. 257] used to control the key distribution could be in the form of a usage limitation value, such that the settlement information is examined to determine if the usage request does not exceed said usage limitation value. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to provide a regulatory conditions such a usage limitation value to control content utilization, thereby enhancing the distribution of content.

15. As to claim 32, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given to a winner of a lottery held at a time (e.g., settlement information) of purchasing products from the at least one manufacturer [par. 257].

16. As to claim 33, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the content distributed by said information distribution device is content which was created for private television broadcast by adding commercial messages, and the commercial messages have been removed [par. 96].

17. As to claim 34, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given in accordance with information (e.g., settlement information) sent to the at least one manufacture rmanufacturer [par. 257], the information comprises requests related to products purchased from the at least one manufacturer impressions (e.g., favorite) after using the products, and recommended price [par. 31].

18. As to claim 35, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given in accordance with information (e.g., settlement information) sent to the at least one manufacturer manufacturers [par. 257], which information comprises buyer's an age, a sex, and a purchasing motive of a buyer [par. 133].

19. As to claim 36, Akiyama teaches a content distribution system defined where the decryption key is given in accordance with information including preferences for certain content or for viewing time (e.g., time limit) which is sent to said content holder that includes said information distribution device [par. 174].

20. As to claim 37, Akiyama teaches a content distribution method for distributing a content provided by at least one manufacturer [fig. 14], said method comprising:

an encrypting and distributing via an interactive medium content made by a content holder using a budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by the at least one manufacturer which becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product (i.e., … teaches an encryption unit for encrypting a data [par. 90]), other than the content [fig. 18], associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

an of inputting a decryption key given to as the result of a purchase of a product (e.g., settlement information) made by the at least one manufacturer [par. 257];

of sending, upon input of the decryption key in step said inputting operation, the inputted decryption key [par. 257];

receiving the decryption key sent in said sending operation and determining whether the received decryption key is appropriate or not ;

decrypting, step when said determining operation determines that the decryption key is appropriate [par. 257], the content distributed in said encryption distribution operation [par. 90];

of receiving the content sent in said encryption distribution step operation [par. 90;

and a viewing step of reproducing the content received in said receiving step operation [30, fig. 7; par. 97].

21. As to claim 38, Akiyama teaches a content distribution method for distributing a content provided by at least one manufacturer [par. 14], said method comprising:

an encrypting and distributing a content made by a content holder using a budget (e.g., fee [fig. 18]) provided by the at least one manufacturer a single manufacturer or a plurality of manufacturers [par. 90], wherein the content becomes audible or visible to a user on a condition that the user has purchased a product [par. 47], other than the content [fig. 18], associated with the manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

of receiving the content sent in said encryption distribution operation [par. 90];

an inputting a decryption key given to as a result of a purchase of a product made by the at least one manufacturer [par. 235];

of decrypting, upon inputting the decryption key in said inputting operation, the content received in said receiving operation [par. 257];

and of reproducing (e.g., utilizing) the content decrypted in said decryption operation [par. 235].

22. As to claim 39, Akiyama teaches a content receiving device for receiving and reproducing (e.g., listening) a content budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by at least one manufacturer the content created by a content holder using a budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by the at least one manufacturer [par. 47], said content receiving device comprising:

an input means for inputting a decryption key given that the user has purchased a product [par. 235], other than the content [fig. 18], associated with the at least one manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]);

a sending means for sending (e.g., distributing), upon input of the decryption key by said input means, the inputted decryption key to said content holder [par. 235];

and a receiving means for receiving the content decrypted by said content holder using the received decryption key [fig. 14];

and sending the decrypted content to a viewing means for reproducing the decrypted content received by said receiving means wherein the content becomes audible or visible to a user on the condition that the user has purchased the product [par. 47], other than the content (fig. 18), associated with the at least one manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]).

23. As to claim 40, Akiyama teaches a content receiving device for receiving and reproducing decrypted content originally budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by at least one manufacturer the content created by a content holder a budget (e.g., fee [par. 47]) provided by the at least one manufacturer [par. 90], said content receiving device comprising:

a receiving means for receiving the content [par. 90];

an input means for inputting a decryption key given a decryption means for decrypting [par. 257], upon input of the decryption key by said input means, an encryption of the content received by said receiving means by use of the decryption key [par. 90];

and a viewing means for reproducing the content decrypted by said decryption means [30, fig. 7; par. 97], wherein the content becomes audible or visible to a user on the condition that the user has purchased the product [par. 47], other than the content [fig. 18], associated with the at least one manufacturer (i.e., … teaches information material (i.e., commercial) collected in a virtual showroom associated with the advertiser [par. 28]).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)270-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AYAZ Sheikh can be reached on (571)272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRYAN WRIGHT/
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/Kimyen Vu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2435